GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2046
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e-Panchayat Mission
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Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of e-Panchayat Mission mode scheme and its present status;
(b) the details of funds sanctioned, released and used under this scheme, State/ UT-wise;
(c) the details of targets set and achievements made under it including the number of panchayats which have been computerized, State/UT-wise;
(d) whether the Government has received any proposal to increase the funds provided under this scheme from any State and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise;
(e) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of e-Panchayat Scheme in various States and if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise; and
(f) whether the Union Government proposes to launch a new scheme for computerization and networking of all the panchayats in the country, if so, the details thereof and the funds likely to be earmarked therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)
(a): The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is implementing e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) wherein a suite of core software applications has been developed to address various aspects of Panchayats' functioning including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring, social audit and delivery of citizen services like issue of certificates, licences, tax collection etc. These applications are collectively called Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES). Further, some States have developed their own State-specific software applications for similar purposes. These applications are at different stages of adoption across the country.
(b) & (c): The States/UTs are not funded under e-Panchayat MMP. However, under the restructured Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) scheme of MoPR [erstwhile Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA)], some support has been extended to States for e-enablement of Panchayats based on the proposals received from the States under their annual plans. Due to differentials in the level of preparedness of Panchayats (manpower, information and communication technology related infrastructure, capacity etc.), the pace of adoption of these applications varies across States/UTs. No targets have been set for the States/UTs under e-Panchayat MMP scheme, since the States/UTs have the option to adopt the software applications developed by the ministry or their own state-specific applications. State-wise details of funds sanctioned, released and utilized by States under RGSA including for e-enablement is given at Annexure.
(d): Since State /UTs are not funded under e-Panchayat MMP, no proposal has been received from the State under e-Panchayat MMP by the Ministry. However, States/UTs are funded for e-enablement under their annual RGSA plans. Besides, provision has been made in Fourteenth Finance Commission Award guidelines for Gram Panchayats to use upto 10% of the available funds, inter alia, for purchase of computers, internet connectivity etc.
(e): For effective implementation of the e- Panchayat MMP, workshops/trainings are regularly organised to demonstrate the applications to the State/UT government functionaries. Ministry of Panchayati Raj is also providing trained faculty to provide trainings on all applications. Review with States is also organised regularly through meetings, visits and video conference sessions. Furthermore, the progress of States/UTs is also assessed during the evaluation process of the annual e-Panchayat Puraskars. As a result of these efforts, the adoption of the PES applications has been improving across the States/UTs.
(f): The new restructured RGSA scheme aims at strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by way of capacity building of the PRIs and its functionaries inter-alia through enhanced use of technology to increase outreach. Further, some other Ministries are also working towards computerization and networking of panchayats. Department of Telecommunication is implementing the Bharatnet project that aims to create a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats in the country through an optimal mix of underground fibre, aerial fibre, radio and satellite media to enable broadband connectivity at Gram Panchayats in a phased manner. Similarly Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA), wherein six crore persons in rural areas from the eligible households would be made digitally literate. Furthermore, MeitY is also implementing a project "CSC 2.0" under Digital India Programme for providing various services to the citizens in the Gram Panchayats through Common Services Centre (CSCs).

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